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September 24, 1964

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



275053

Butler County Board of Health
Courthouse
Hamilton, Ohio

Re: Union Township Improvement Association
(Albert Skinner Dump)

Gentlemen:

I have not yet received an answer from you of my letter dated August 28, 1964, in which I requested a copy of the minutes of the meeting of August 5, 1964, together with copies of minutes of all meetings in which discussion was had in regard to the Skinner Dump.

During testimony in the case of Brackney vs. Skinner now being heard in the Butler County Common Pleas Court, certain facts were revealed, which should be called to your attention, relative to sodium cyanide being disposed of upon the Skinner property:

1. Mr. Kenneth Wilbur of Goshen, Ohio, who is a Metallurgical Engineer for the Ford Motor Company at Sharonville, Ohio, testified that sodium cyanide is used in certain processing at the Sharonville Plant; that the solution of sodium cyanide becomes "spent" and must be disposed of and that such disposition is made under private contract; that the "spent" sodium cyanide usually contains some active cyanide ingredients, which are highly toxic and could poison an entire water supply; that the safe way to neutralize sodium cyanide completely is by the use of chlorine gas.

2. There was other testimony to indicate that several drums of sodium cyanide were dumped on the Skinner property in May, 1964.

3. Mr. George Bailey, Director of Environmental Health, Hamilton County, Ohio, testified that on July 10, 1964, he was called to the Skinner Dump by Mr. Skinner and that Skinner requested that the cyanide materials be returned to Hamilton County; that he (Mr. Bailey) pleaded with Skinner not to send the cyanide materials back to the Clarke Dump on Kemper Road for the reason that the

Clarke Dump is located near to a water supply for 50,000 people; that at the time he investigated this matter on July 10, 1964, the cyanide materials were not in the metal drums in which they were taken to the dump because the drums had been broken and the cyanide materials were mixed with soil and loaded on a truck; that Mr. Bailey indicated to Skinner that the cyanide materials should be buried on the Skinner property, but he was not present during the burying process. Mr. Bailey further testified that he made no tests of the soil nor was he able to state whether or not the cyanide materials could enter the water supply.

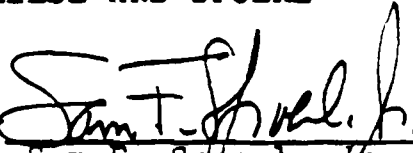
In my previous conversation with Dr. Gaker, he stated to me that the cyanide materials had been reburied in the Skinner property on Mr. Bailey's direction in metal drums and that Bailey had made certain tests of the ground and was convinced that the cyanide materials were not dangerous to the water supply in the area.

I am writing this letter to you to indicate that the sodium cyanide residue is not at this time in the metal drums in which it was delivered to the Skinner Dump, nor did Mr. Bailey make any tests of the ground.

We feel that the cyanide materials are potentially very dangerous and that the placing of such materials in the dump is a violation of the law and of your rules and regulations. We intend to contact the Ohio State Water Pollution Control Board in Columbus relative to this matter.

Very truly yours,

BRIEDE AND SPOERL

By 
Sam F. Spoerl, Jr.

SFS:jl